

Volunteer Opportunity with the Beverly Community Preservation Committee!

The Beverly Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is comprised of nine volunteers, and was established via City Ordinance (See Chapter 15, Section 22 of the City Ordinances). The City was required to establish the Community Preservation Committee as a result of adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2012. A seat on the CPC is currently vacant. It is an at-large position, which means that you would be appointed by the City Council as a representative of the City, at-large, not as a representative of a specific ward or other city committee.

What is the Community Preservation Act (CPA)?

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts adopted the Community Preservation Act in 2000. The CPA allows cities and towns in Massachusetts to decide whether or not they want to adopt the Act at the local level, by placing it on the ballot during a general election. Adoption of the CPA, by Beverly, means that 1% of the City's real estate tax revenue is set aside for projects in four categories: (a) historic resources; (b) open space; (c) recreation; (d) community (affordable) housing. Adopting the Act also means that the City receives state dollars as well to support these projects. By-products of this law include the overall enhancement of the City's quality of life, retention and creation of jobs, particularly construction jobs, and the potential for increased tourism, which helps to support restaurants and retail businesses. For fiscal year 2022, there was approximately \$1.2 million in state and local tax revenue available for grant awards, via competitive application, supporting these types of projects.

Examples of projects that have received CPA funding

Sixty-five projects have received CPA funding, thus far, in all four eligible categories. Examples of some exciting and impactful local projects supported with CPA funds include: historic restoration of the G.A.R. Hall façade; restoration of properties owned by Historic Beverly including Hale Farm, Balch House and Cabot House; the creation of the Green's Hill trail; the preservation of open space and recreation at the former Camp Paradise and at Moraine Farm; and the creation of community housing at 2 Hardy Street; the Anchor Point development and Briscoe Village for Living and the Arts. There are many other examples of projects on both a small and large scale.

Responsibilities.

The CPC meets monthly (on occasion, several times a month). Its primary responsibilities are to invite and review applications for CPA funding and make funding recommendations to the City Council. Applications are submitted by individuals, groups/organizations, and the City itself. An annual funding round is launched in the fall but applicants may also submit "out-of-cycle" applications throughout the year if there is an urgent need to pursue funding. Other CPC responsibilities include review of policy questions and related research, updating the application process as necessary, keeping current on available CPA funds and the status of open projects, and conducting an annual public meeting/hearing to learn from residents about general needs and possible projects. CPC members also need to be generally familiar with relevant municipal plans and community initiatives.

Questions

For additional information please do not hesitate to contact Denise Deschamps who staffs the Beverly Community Preservation Committee. Denise is also the Economic Development Planner in the City's Planning and Development Department and may be reached via phone at 978-605-2356 and by email at ddeschamps@beverlyma.gov

Also, please feel free to visit the Beverly Community Preservation Committee's web page to learn more about the Community Preservation Committee and the Community Preservation Act:
<https://www.beverlyma.gov/409/Community-Preservation-Committee>

Process to apply

If you have decided that you would like to pursue appointment to the CPC please write a letter of interest explaining why you are interested in joining the CPC, and sharing any past or present activities/experience you believe are relevant, to City Council President Julie Flowers, c/o Ms. Lisa Kent, Beverly City Clerk, Beverly City Hall, 191 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915 and copy Denise Deschamps, Beverly City Hall, Room 27, Beverly, MA 01915. We look forward to hearing from you!